

New Jersey Gazette

Newsletter of the New Jersey Historic Trust,
New Jersey Historical Commission, and
Division of Archives and Records Management

Volume 5 • Issue 2

Fall 2007

NJ Heritage Tourism Task Force Wants to Hear from YOU

Thirteen members of the public testified at the first hearing sponsored by the New Jersey Heritage Tourism Task Force on October 9 at the State House in Trenton. The Task Force heard from individuals representing counties and municipalities, heritage site stewards and private citizens as part of its process of collecting information about ways to strengthen the state's heritage tourism industry.



Visitors tour Prallsville Mill, a site for heritage tourism and eco-tourism.

Individuals providing testimony were asked to help the task force create a "wish list" of desirable scenarios to encourage heritage tourism in New Jersey:

"New Jersey is home to a rich historic legacy, from Colonial times to the Revolutionary War all the way through the Industrial Revolution," said Senator Buono (D-Middlesex), the Senate sponsor of the legislation that established the NJHTTF. "By properly tapping this unique resource and learning from other successful heritage tourism hot spots, like Philadelphia, we can attract an entirely new group of tourists to New Jersey."

Bonnie Lynn Nadzeika agreed the priority is to "keep New Jersey heritage tourists in New Jersey" and offer competitive programs and experiences to draw visitors from neighboring states. She also encouraged the task force to promote collaboration, not competition among historic sites and to "look beyond the Revolution" to later periods of New Jersey history that can tell different stories and attract new audiences.

Many other issues were discussed:

- Taneshia Nash Laird of the Trenton Downtown Association reported the significant economic impact of annual "Patriot's Week" in Trenton. A \$3,000 investment by the city resulted in a \$100,000 impact on the economy and attracted visitors from as far as Massachusetts and Virginia.
- Volunteer organizations that are heritage site stewards need technical assistance in preparing sites for visitation, providing amenities and marketing heritage resources, said Sara Hill of the Colonial Dames of American in New Jersey, which owns and operated two historic sites.
- Union County Freeholder Chairwoman Bette Jane Kowalski described the county's heralded "Four Centuries in a Weekend" annual event and the desire to expand the weekend event to become a year-round tourism experience.
- Use technology, such as phone tours and web sites, to attract new

audiences, urged Samuel Frisby, Director of Trenton's Department of Recreation, Natural Resources & Culture

Other speakers suggested the need to develop international marketing and ecotourism, improve way-finding signage and continue capital investment by public and private entities in preserving the built environment.

State Historical Conference to Focus on Immigration and Ethnicity

New Jersey has always been one of the most diverse places on planet earth. Ever since its origins in the 1600s, the state has been the home to waves of newcomers from other nations. In the early 19th century came immigrants from Ireland, Germany, and Great Britain; late in the century came Italians and eastern Europeans; today the majority of immigrants come to New Jersey from Asia and Latin America. Immigrant



The Statue of Liberty represents America's historic acceptance of immigrants from all nations.

To explore our state's proud history of welcoming newcomers, the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State, will devote its annual conference to the theme "New Jersey Diversity: Ethnicity and Immigration Past, Present, and Future." The conference is cosponsored by the NJ Governor's Ethnic Advisory Council.

The all-day conference, which is open to the public, will be held at the Trenton Marriott Hotel on Saturday, November 17, 2007. Over two dozen history organizations will display exhibits at the conference.

The day will begin at 8:30 a.m. with registration, a networking breakfast, and exhibits. Lectures and panel discussions will begin at 9:30 a.m. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Nancy Foner Distinguished Professor at CUNY, who will speak on "Generations of Newcomers: The Immigrant Experience Across Two Centuries." Other speakers will include US Senator Robert Menendez, who is the son of an immigrant family; Dr. Marc Mappen, director of the Historical Commission, and Professor Virginia Yans of Rutgers University.

The conference will also include a workshop on how to do genealogical research on your immigrant family and a panel discussion on ethnic history. There will be a lunch, during which awards will be presented to individuals and organizations recognized for their contributions to encouraging the public appreciation for and understanding of the history of the Garden State. The conference will close with a reception in honor of the 40th anniversary of the New Jersey Historical Commission.

The registration fee is \$35 per person, which includes continental breakfast, lunch, afternoon reception, a conference packet, and admission to all conference events. Copies of the registration form are available at the website www.newjerseyhistory.org or can be requested by calling (609)

984-3458 or via email at njhc@sos.state.nj.us.

Last Royal Governor Featured on New Website

The State Archives has created a new website featuring New Jersey's last royal Governor, William Franklin. Now part of the Archives' Documentary Treasures area, the site focuses on Franklin's 1762 appointment by King George III. The exquisite, engrossed parchment was presented to New Jersey Governor Charles Olden in 1861 by the Crown of Great Britain after its discovery in a London bookseller's shop. William Franklin, natural son of patriot Benjamin Franklin of Philadelphia, remained loyal to the crown until he was deposed in 1776. He spent his last years in America in exile in Connecticut and in British-occupied New York. At the close of the war, he removed to England, where he died in 1813.



Royal Appointment of William Franklin, 1762

We hope you will take a few minutes to peruse our site, starting with the new page for royal governors:

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/treasures/oaths/royal.html>

Click on the link to the William Franklin Appointment to read more about the history of our last royal governor and to see manuscript, letter of transmittal from the Crown to Governor Olden, and full transcriptions of both documents. This is the first colonial governor's commission to be posted to the "Appointments and Oaths of Office" area of the State Archives' Documentary Treasures site. The state governors' oaths of office from 1790 to the present were posted in January 2007.

For others Documentary Treasures, please consult the following URL:

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/treasures.html>

Pilot Program Seeks to Balance Historic Preservation and Development Goals

In 2005, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs selected the Borough of Fanwood as one of six municipalities to participate in a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) demonstration program. While TDRs have been used to foster preservation in other parts of the country, Fanwood is significant for using TDRs to focus on suburban residential resources – specifically, resources located in the Fanwood Park Historic District.

Fanwood was one of the early railroad suburbs developed by the Central Railroad of New Jersey to encourage and accommodate settlement along the commuter railroad line. The historic district contains nearly eighty buildings of varying architectural styles including: Gothic, Georgian, Colonial and Dutch Colonial revivals as well as American Foursquare, Tudor, and Craftsman, among others. One notable property is the Victorian Gothic-styled train station; a building considered a key element to the historic district and individually listed on both the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places.



Stockton is exploring ways to save historic neighborhoods while attracting appropriate development.

One of the goals of the Fanwood program is to use TDRs to encourage and financially assist with the preservation of historic homes in the district while redirecting growth to areas more suitable to development. Both objectives are in keeping with the Borough's master plan and shared community vision. TDR's work by exchanging development rights in an area less suited for development (such as Fanwood's historic district) for development rights in an area that the municipality determines is more appropriate for development.

TDR's begin with eligible homeowners in the "sending" area being given a certain number of marketable development credits. These credits are based on the size and development potential of the property. The development credits are sold at market rates to developers interested in developing properties in the area the municipality has designated the "receiving" area. In this way, the district is able to maintain its historic character while encouraging development in more appropriate areas of the borough.

A key goal of Fanwood project is to explore various alternatives and methods for developing a mechanism to use the TDR credits to help finance the appropriate preservation and maintenance of properties in the historic district. By selling their development credits, homeowners will also be required to have a preservation easement placed on the property. The easement would restrict certain types of alterations or additions and help ensure the long-term preservation of the resource's significant features. All future homeowners would be bound by the preservation easement.

Developers benefit in purchasing these land credits by increasing the development potential of a particular site. Additionally, because the municipality is engaged in the TDR program and has designated a specific area for development, the proposed development is less likely to spur opposition.

The use of TDR's is not yet a reality in Fanwood. It is a pilot project that is support in part with a planning grant through the Garden State Historic Preservation Trust Fund, administered by the New Jersey Historic Trust. The grant funds will help pay for professional services involved in studying the legal, logistical, and financial methods of using TDR credits to maintain the historic character of the Fanwood Park Historic District.

The Fanwood TDR demonstration project will provide important information and potentially serve as a model for other communities, both statewide and nationally, as a tool for historic preservation.

Historical Commission Receives Prestigious National Leadership Award

The New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the NJ Department of State has been selected as a recipient of a prestigious Leadership in History Award from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) in Nashville, Tennessee.



The award to the Historical Commission was presented by the AASLH.

The award is given in recognition of the NJ Historical Commission's overall organizational excellence, and in particular for the agency's role in supporting historical interests in the Garden State.

The mission of the New Jersey Historical Commission is to improve the quality of life in the state by preserving the historical record and advancing public knowledge and awareness of the Garden State's rich heritage. The agency awards \$4 million in grants each year to organizations such as museums, community groups, historic sites, archives, and individual educators. The agency also holds conferences and workshops and issues publications in print and digital format to help school students and the general public learn about the history of the Garden State.

The American Association for State and Local history is a not-for-profit professional organization of individuals and institutions working to preserve and promote history. The AASLH's award program was initiated in 1945 to establish and encourage standards of excellence in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history throughout America. For 2007, the 62nd year of the award program, a total of 72 organizations and individuals received these awards, which will be presented at the 2007 AASLH Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, on Saturday, September 8, 2007.

More Historical Collections Available at www.njarchives.org

New Jersey State Archives has added a number of new imaged collections to its website. Five of them are of particular note considering how they portray aspects of New Jersey history.

To commemorate Black History Month, in February 2007 the Archives scanned and posted images of a collection of 57 original Hunterdon County slave manumissions (freedom papers). The manuscripts date from 1788-1836, and can be seen here:



Ruth, Esther, Marion and
Richard Cleveland, ca. 1899

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/chncl003.html>

Two imaged collections were posted relative to the famous Lindbergh kidnapping case and the sensational trial of Bruno Richard Hauptmann. These additions were posted in March 2007 in recognition of the 75th anniversary of the kidnapping. The first collection includes images of State's evidence used in the 1935 trial:

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/slcsp001.html>

The second includes images of the contents of Hauptmann's inmate file from Trenton State Prison:

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/sintr003.html>

On the brighter side of New Jersey history, the Archives also posted images from a small but fascinating collection of family papers, photographs and memorabilia relating to President Grover Cleveland. The 170th anniversary of his in Caldwell, New Jersey, was commemorated earlier this year. See the images here:

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/pclev001.html>

The has also created a new site featuring a rich collection of original governors' oaths of office from 1790 to the present. Many of the manuscripts are, in fact, illuminated parchments. They are not only historical documents, but are a pleasure to view. Check out, for example, Woodrow Wilson's 1911 oath as chief executive, or Charles Edison's patriotic oath of 1941:

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/sstse007.html>

Most recently, the Archives unveiled the minutes of the World War II-period Governor's War Cabinet. These proceedings document statewide civil defense activities in New Jersey during 1942-1944. They give us important insights into what was happening stateside during the international conflict. Check it out here:

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/szwaa001.html>

To view all of our Imaged Collections please go to:

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/imgcollections.html>

Recipients Named for Historical Commission Awards

Hollywood has its Oscars, Broadway has its Tonys, the music industry has its Grammys, and for the past 33 years the field of Garden State history has its own awards, which are given out each year to individuals and organizations by the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State.

The 2007 awards will be presented at the Historical Commission's Annual Conference, which this year will be held on November 17 at the Trenton Marriott.



Noted author Thomas Fleming will receive an award.

The Commission's highest honor, the Richard J. Hughes Award, is presented to an individual for lifetime achievement in the field of New Jersey history. The 2007 recipient is noted author Thomas Fleming, who has written more than 40 books, among them *Forgotten Victory: The Battle of New Jersey* and *Liberty!: The American Revolution*. Fleming is the President of the Society of American Historians, and has frequently appeared on the History Channel, PBS, A&E, C-Span.

The Richard P. McCormick prize for the best scholarly publication of the year will go to the book *After the Fall: Decline and Renewal in a Post Industrial City* by Professor Howard Gillette of Rutgers University.

Also, seven awards of recognition will be presented to the following organizations and individuals:

- Charles Eckhardt and Bob McAvoy for their two-volume *Our Brothers Gone Before*, a work documenting Civil War veterans buried in New Jersey cemeteries.
- Monmouth County Archives for its outstanding accomplishments in the areas of collections care, service to the public, and leadership in the field of New Jersey history.
- Morris County Park Commission, Historic Sites Division for its exemplary work in preserving and interpreting the historic sites in its care.
- Friends of the Hereford Inlet Lighthouse/Hereford Inlet Lighthouse Commission for their careful and determined efforts to restore and care for Hereford Inlet Lighthouse.
- Trenton Downtown Association for its work to educate the public about the Battles of Trenton and Princeton through its popular Patriot's Week events.
- Professor Richard Veit of Rider University for his many contributions to the study of New Jersey history through the discipline of archaeology.

